My dear Marie 1895 Rome Fri 23d April 1895

Herein enclosed is the 1st half of the note £5 – number E/y 36215 & I beg you to acknowledge it & I will send you the other half – Please to understand this money is your own earning for as you kept so carefully the letter of Keats so many year, so now you are only paid for the keeping

Tell me what the title of the book is thus presented to you by the Author – as for the 2 letters of the brothers I dont think they are of any value – I have 4 letters of Keats & many MS. of which I give a scrap sometimes to his admirers as a great favour

My picture of "the grave of Keats" is the one I have just sold to an American Lady Mrs Lawrence a immense admirer of his work & his life – His General Sir Vincent Eyre who has repaired the tomb & is now having a medallion portrait of the poet done in marble

You can have no idea how Keats works are admired now after ½ a century & how often I am sought out as his friend & what advantage

pleasure it brings me – indeed that I owe to its
my present comfortable position – for it brought
me Mr Gladstone & he got me the 2 pensions
& altho I put each one in each eye, yet the pittance
enough for my moderate wants in Rome, this is
London I would not be near enough

I have made up my mind not to go to Tottenham
this summer, but to remain quietly at my painting
in this ample palace wherein I need not suffer
from the heat – I can go out in the early morning
enjoying the cool which is quite a paradise
Rome is so much improved in cleanliness
there are no more dung hills in every Street, & the
city is cleaned every day so the sanitory state of
it is like other places – the Papal filth was in
a great measure the cause of the bad air

I hope this will find you free of the horrid
winter which has caused you to suffer, also we have
had the winter ugliness, but now the lovely spring
enchants me – some day my letters may possibly
be of value – two years hence! I beg love to dear Tom
& Charles & all their belongings – your loving brother Joe
PS 5 times I have painted a face & it does not get please
me – my perseverance is great